THE INTEREST BILL.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: I move for leave to introduce the Interest Bill.

Mr. G. Madhavan: I second it.

The motion was put and carried.

Mr. T. M. Chidambarathanu Pillai: Sir, I found in "The Indian Thinker" that this Council will cease to exist from this Session itself. Is it a fact?

President: Order, order. Obviously it cannot be so. (*Laughter*). As I had indicated already, there must be a Franchise Committee and I have been considering that there would be 2½ to 3 million people to be enfranchised. The printing of the Rolls will take about 3 to 6 months. We are in contact with the Government of India to find somebody to preside over the Franchise Committee. It might be the Chief Justice of a High Court. All that means that there will be some more time and the Budget will have to be passed. It is not the intention of Government to pass the Budget under Section 93 or some analogous section. There is no particular reason for honourable members feeling that kind of apprehension.

Mr. T. M. Chidambarathanu Pillai: It was stated in the papers that the Chair said something like that.

President: Now that this question has been raised I will make the position clear so that the people in the State might know exactly the programme. First of all, the Proclamation itself will have to be drafted with very great care. For that purpose every word will have to be considered well before being incorporated as every word of it will come up for interpretation before the Supreme Court which shall come into existence. That is to say, every word will have to be carefully looked into, and the declaration of fundamental rights contained in it is a matter of tremendous importance, and naturally the question of the British Indian Law Courts will also arise. We will have to deal with all that matter. That means 2 to 3 months time and in June or July the Proclamation will be issued. Afterwards, the Franchise Committee will be constituted and I expect it to take 3 to 4 months. Parallel with that, steps will be taken to have various labour organisations, artisan organisations, cottage industry organisations, etc. incorporated under some statute like the Indian Companies Act or the Co-operative Societies Act, so that their due representation in the Upper Chamber may be made possible.

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[President.]

So, all things being propitious, it is possible that the elections may start during next January or February. What I expect is, if everything is favourable and everything is done according to programme, the next Budget, that is, the 1947 Budget, will be dealt with under the new Constitution. It is not likely that it can be earlier than that. So honourable members may frame their programme on that basis.

OATH OF OFFICE.

Mr. H. C. Papworth (*Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Travancore*) took the oath and signed the rolls.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Amelioration of the backward classes.

1. **Mr. A. N. Satyanesan**: This Council recommends to Government that the Government activities for the amelioration of the backward classes be increased on the basis of a five-year plan and a separate Government Department be organised under a full time Protector of Backward classes, assisted by an Advisory Board representing all the interests concerned.

Advisory Committee.

2. **Mr. N. Narayana Kurup**: This Council recommends to Government that Advisory Committees be appointed for the Departments of Police, Excise, Medical, Industries, Co-operative, Agriculture, and Education.

Incomplete P. W. D. Works.

3. **Mr. N. Narayana Kurup**: This Council recommends to Government that all roads which the Government have begun more than ten years ago and spent a large amount on and left incomplete, shall be included in the Post-war reconstruction works so as to complete them in the shortest possible time.

President: Is it worth while moving at this juncture resolutions of the type, *viz.*, for the appointment of Advisory Committees on various subjects? Mr. Narayana Kurup has also come forward with such resolutions. Obviously, the committees that are appointed now will be completely modified in character very soon, and the question of representing all the interests concerned will come into vogue. As a matter of fact, the honourable members would have seen a recent resolution of the Government in the matter of having a very full committee for the backward communities and also the announcement that Rs. 3 lakhs per year will be

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